

## TONIGHT'S PROGRAM:

### THE GROUND HOLDS SECRETS: COURTHOUSE ARCHAEOLOGY

#### **I Clerk of the Circuit Court Historic Records**

- Eric Larson- **263 Years of Loudoun's Court Complex**

#### **II Archeology in County Development**

- County Archaeologist Stephen Thompson
- Principal Planner Heidi Siebentritt, Loudoun County's Department of Planning and Zoning

#### **III Questions & Answers**



Clerk of the Circuit Court, Gary M. Clemens  
Historic Records & Deed Research Division

# 263 Years of Loudoun's Courthouse Complex

## Five Expansion Projects to the Courthouse Complex

- 1758-1761
- 1809-1893
- 1893-Present
- 1999-2004
- 2020-2024

## Types of Expansion

- 1) Building a new courthouse
- 2) Replace existing courthouse, and renovations
- 3) Expansion of current courthouse structures.

**Loudoun never lost a courthouse to fire, war or environmental conditions.**



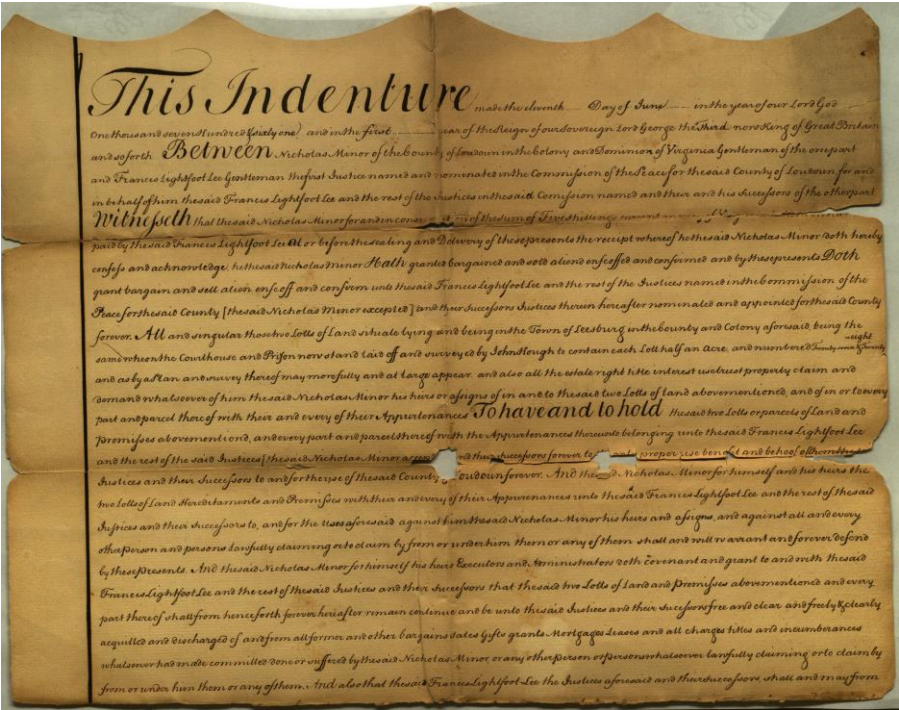
View of the Second Courthouse from Market and King St.



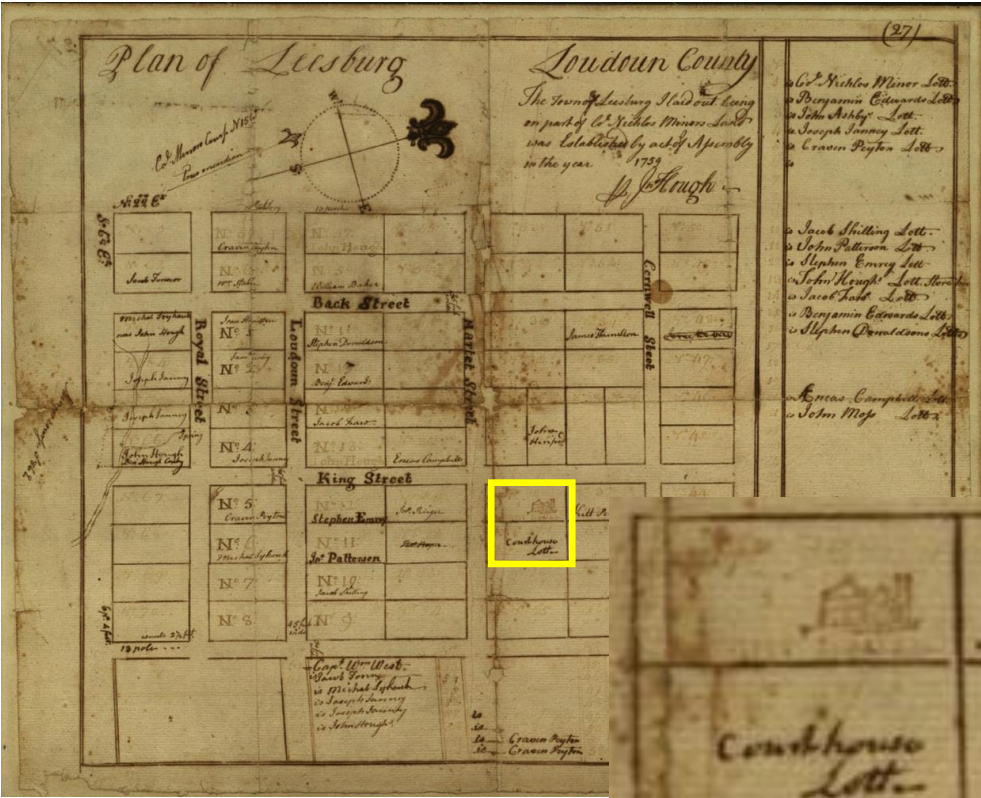
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# 263 Years of Loudoun's Courthouse Complex

## The First Court House 1758-1811



Deed to the Courthouse Lot, From Nicholas Minor to Francis Lightfoot Lee, 1761



Plan of Leesburg, 1759  
Original courthouse lot was only one acre.



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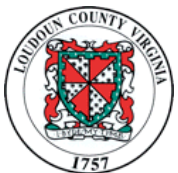
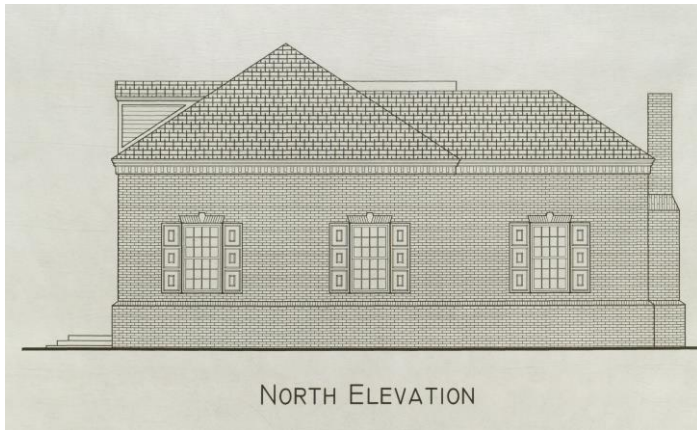


# 263 Years of Loudoun's Courthouse Complex

## The First Court House 1758-1811

*"We have caused Advertisements to be set up requesting workman meet to undertake the building and erecting a Courthouse, Prison and Stocks for the use of the said County and having met on the day appointed, Aeneas Campbell, Gent. Undertook the building the Courthouse for the sum of Three hundred and sixty five pounds Current Money..."*

Order Book A, page 166, 167 – Sept. 13, 1758



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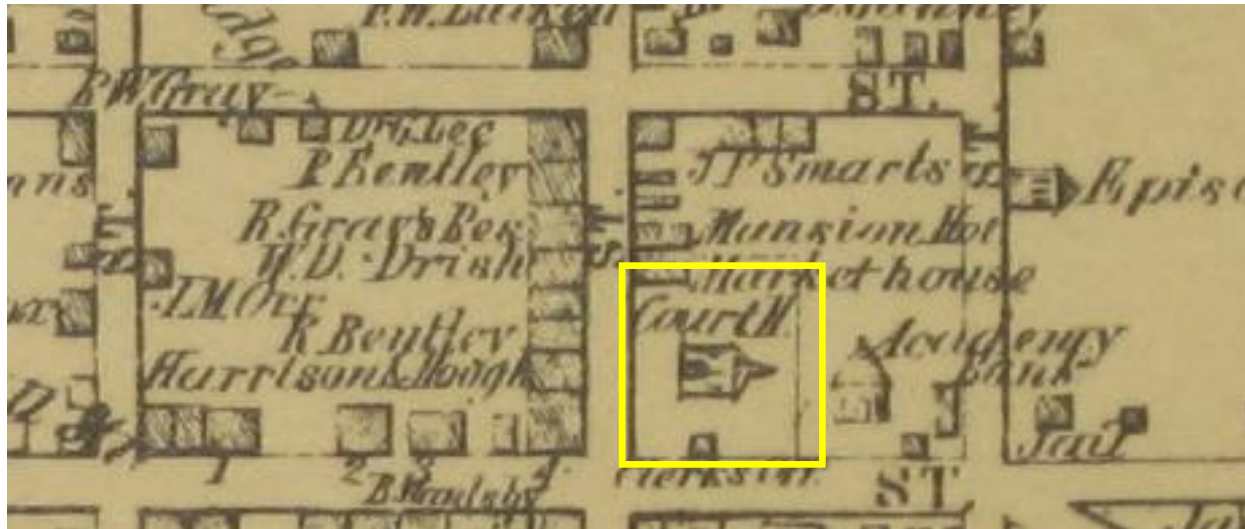
# 263 Years of Loudoun's Courthouse Complex

## The Second Courthouse 1811-1894

*"Ordered that Israel Lacey, William Ellzey, Wilson C. Selden, John Littlejohn, Samuel Murrey and Charles F. Mercer be commissioners to advertise and receive propositions for the purchase of the public lot & buildings in the Town of Leesburg and also to receive propositions for the erection of a new Courthouse, Jail and Clerk's Office in the said Town as well for alterations and repairs of the old buildings and make report to the next court."*

Minute Book 2, page 396, May 8, 1809

"



Courthouse Lot, 1853

Yardley Taylor Map, 1853



Courthouse lot was only one acre in 1853.



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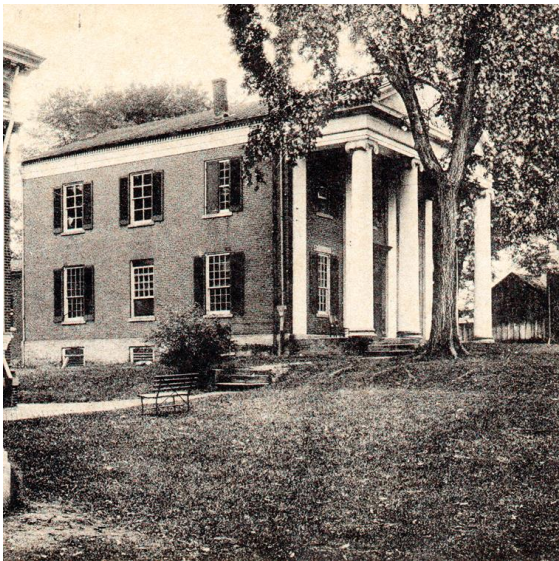


# 263 Years of Loudoun's Courthouse Complex

## The Second Courthouse 1811-1894

*"The Trustees of the Leesburg Academy having made to this Board a proposition to sell the Academy building and ground to this Board for a Clerk's office.... We will sell Academy Building and lot to the County of Loudoun for the sum of \$7500..."*

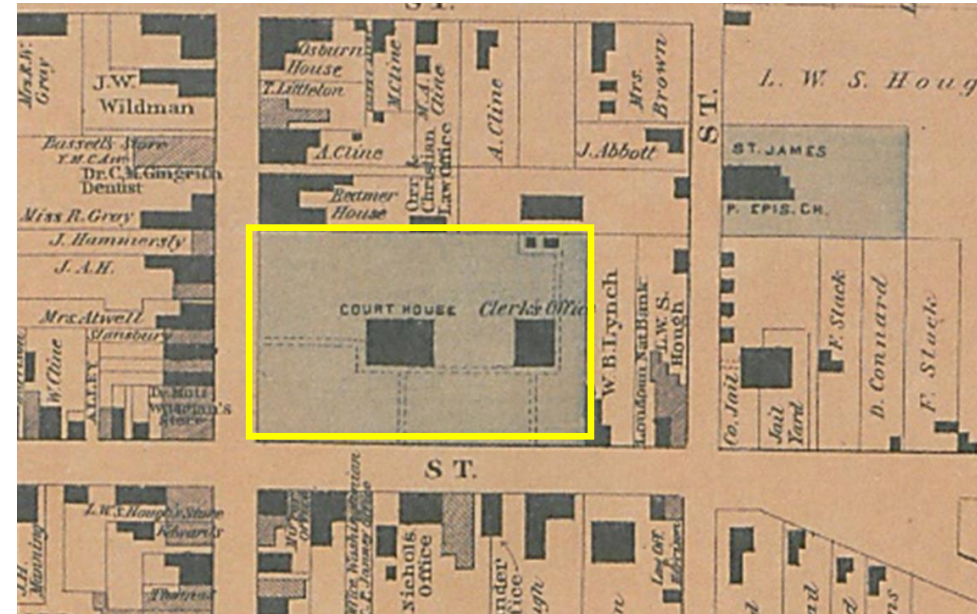
BOS Minute Book 1, 1870-1882, July 1873



The clerk's office in the 1920s.

This building was the Leesburg Academy from 1844-1873.

In 1873 the academy sold it to the county to use as the clerk's office.



Courthouse Lot, 1878

John Grey's Map of Leesburg ,1878



By the 1870s, the courthouse lot expanded to 1.5 acres.



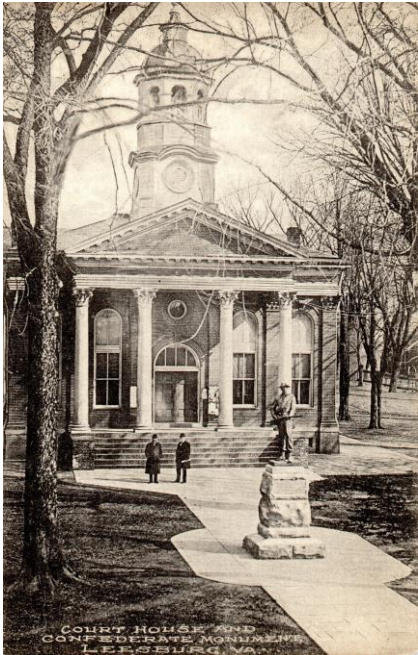
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# 263 Years of Loudoun's Courthouse Complex

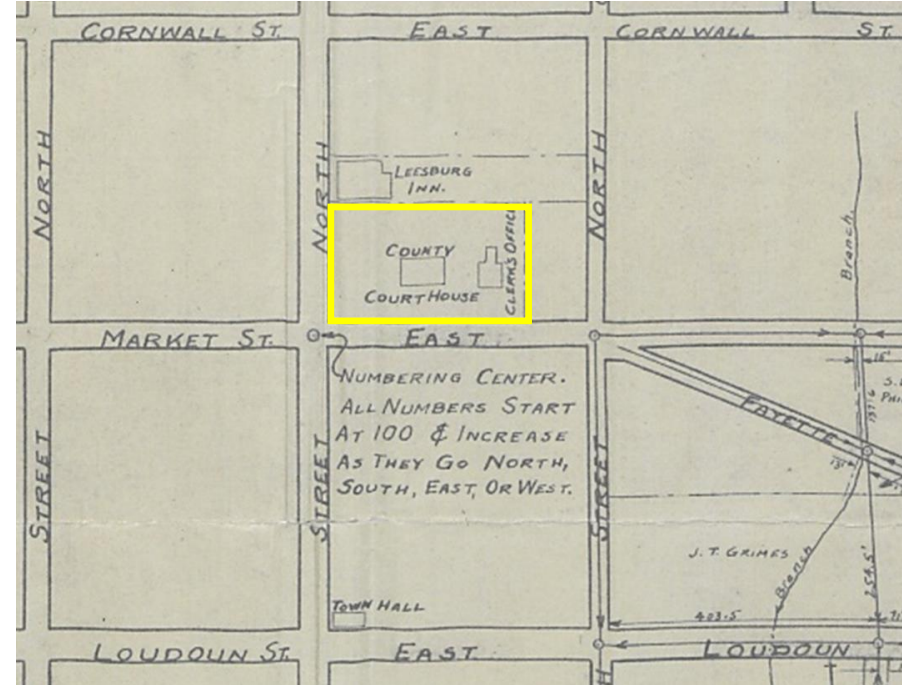
## Third Courthouse 1894 –Present

*"The present court-house was built eighty years ago. Its rests upon the ground and part of the floor is brick. The effluvia of all these years was soaked into the floors and sides, and on a damp day when the crowd has gathered, the atmosphere that court litigants, lawyers and jurors have to breathe is simply fearful. It is an unhealthy place and year after year, of course, has gotten more so. Besides this the ceilings are tumbling down and the walls are cracked. Something has to be done."*

J.B McCabe, *The Mirror*, February 15, 1894



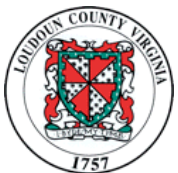
This picture dates after 1906 and is one of the earliest photographs of the third courthouse  
The courthouse is still used for court and programs.



Plan of Leesburg, 1937



The courthouse lot was 1.5 acres.



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# 263 Years of Loudoun's Courthouse Complex

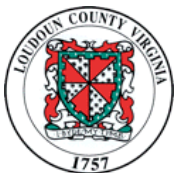
The Clerk of Circuit Court and County Government Expansion 1950s-1970s



By the 1950s, the 1834 academy (The building on the left side of the above drawing) was too small for the Clerk of the Circuit Court. The new addition would mirror the 1834 academy building and the two structures were connected by a hallway.

The County purchased the Leesburg Inn in the 1950s for county and court office space. The Building was removed in 1974 to make way for the new County Building. In 1975, the County of Loudoun opened a new 36,000 sq. ft. building to house the county's offices and the Board of Supervisors.

Courtesy of the Thomas Balch Library

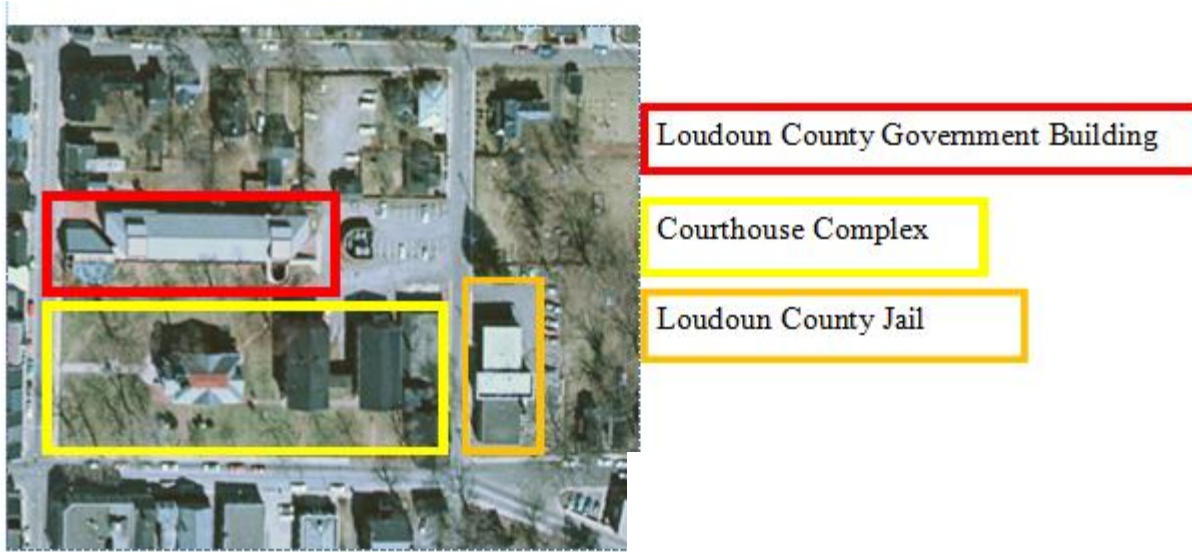


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# 263 Years of Loudoun's Courthouse Complex

## Fourth Courthouse Expansion 1990s-2004



Aerial Photograph of the courthouse, County Building and jail, 1979  
By the 1970s the courthouse grounds had expanded to over 2 acres.

*"In 1990 it became clear that the Old Courthouse and court facilities were woefully inadequate. In response the Loudoun County government hired the architectural firm of Davis and Carter to make a ten year forecast of the Courts' space needs and to prepare a campus plan for renovation."*

Letter, Compiled by the judges of the Loudoun County Courts. Recommendations  
Toward a New Courts Complex in Loudoun County, January 2, 1996



Aerial Photograph of the courthouse, grounds and jail, 1996 prior to construction.



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# 263 Years of Loudoun's Courthouse Complex

## Fourth Courthouse Expansion 1990s-2004



Court expansion from 1999 to 2004 provided further courtrooms and office space to the county's three courts: Circuit Court, Juvenile and Domestic Relations and General District Court. The former Loudoun County Office building was expanded and renovated to provide more space for the Clerk of the Circuit Court, a Law Library and agencies supporting the court system. It was during this expansion that space was provided to establish the clerk's Historic Records Division in 2004.



Aerial Photograph of the courthouse upon completion, 2004



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# 263 Years of Loudoun's Courthouse Complex

## Fifth Courthouse Expansion 1990s-2004



Court Complex and Grounds 2019

Former County Jail Site

Aerial Photograph of the courthouse grounds, 2019

In 2021 the courthouse complex and grounds consist of 5.24 acres.

*"The Courts Complex Expansion project includes the design and construction of a new 95,000-square-foot Loudoun County District Courthouse and renovation of existing courts facilities, including new parking facilities."*

[www.loudoun.gov/courts-expansion](http://www.loudoun.gov/courts-expansion)



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# 263 Years of Loudoun's Courthouse Complex

## Fifth Courthouse Expansion 1990s-2004



New courthouse under construction, October 2021

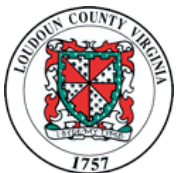
*“During its September 19, 2019 business meeting, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors awarded a contract for the construction of the new Loudoun County Courthouse to Costello Construction of Maryland, Inc. An Invitation for Bid was issued on April 25, 2019. Costello was one of six companies which put in a bid for the contract by the July 10, 2019 deadline. The winning bid was \$54,043,140.”*  
[www.loudoun.gov/courts-expansion](http://www.loudoun.gov/courts-expansion)



 **Dewberry**

LOUDOUN COUNTY COURTHOUSE PHASE III

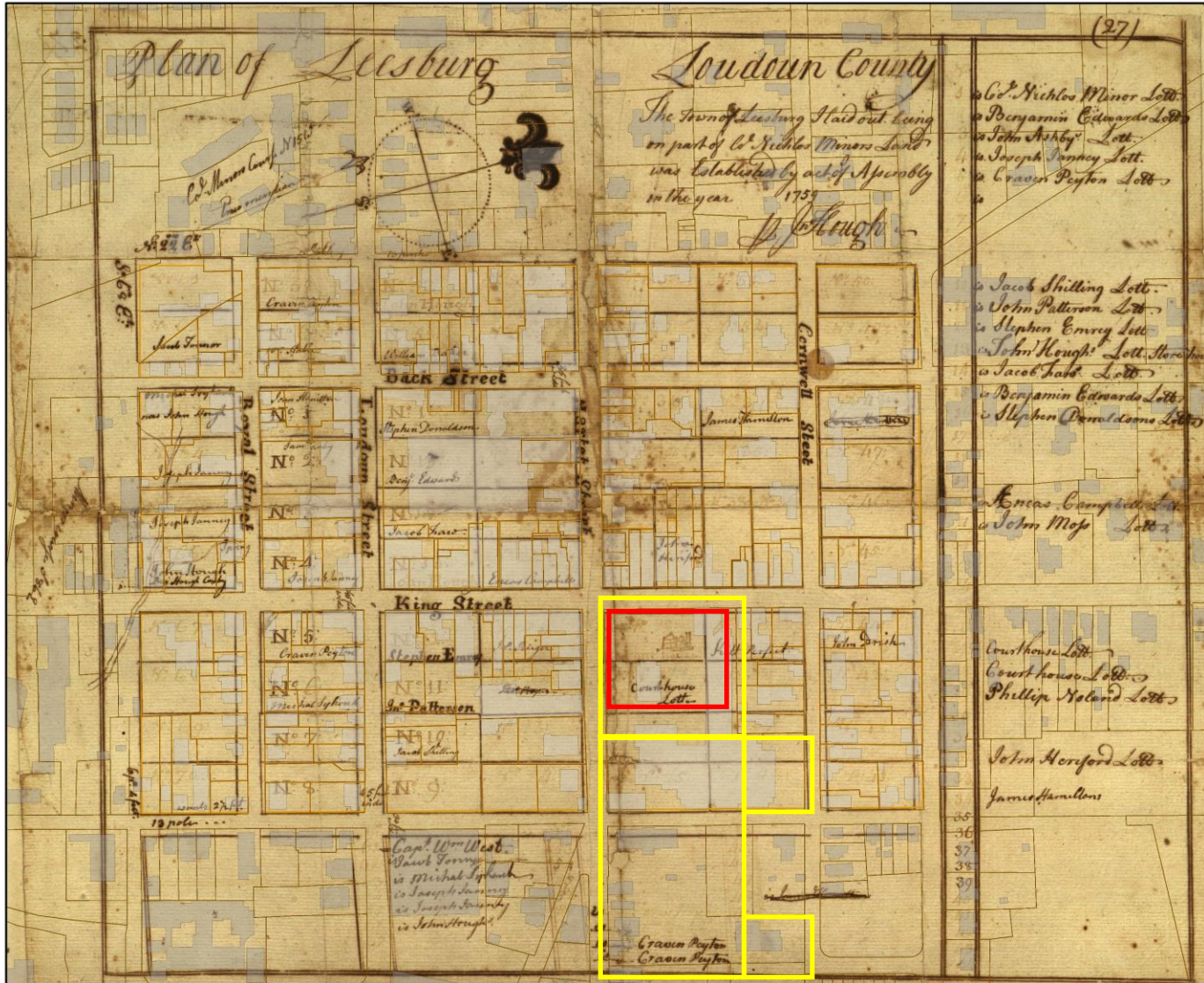
New courthouse and grounds when completed in 2024



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☐ Courthouse Complex 1761

 Courthouse Complex 2021

2008 Map of Leesburg overlaid with the 1759 Plan of Leesburg



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